

States and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) UNICEF initiated the Marathwada intervention in 8 backward districts of Maharashtra in 2002 to address the problem of malnutrition amongst children. Based on the success of Marathwada initiative, the State Nutrition Mission was set up in 2004-05. The Mission, presently covers 23 out of 36 districts in the state and will progressively cover the entire state.

UNICEF does not have a malnutrition reduction programme in Punjab.

(b) Local elected representatives, officials of the Department of Women & Child Development, Health, Urban Development, NGOs community based organizations, academic institutions, media, professional bodies have come together to implement this initiative in Maharashtra.

(c) As per the provisional data of National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3) prevalence of underweight amongst children declined from 50% in 1998-99 (NFHS 2) to 40% in 2005-06 (NFHS 3) in Maharashtra. Similarly, in Punjab, the percentage of underweight children has declined from 28.7% to 27% between 1998-99 and 2005-06.

Swayamsidha Scheme

2872. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Swayamsidha Scheme;
- (b) the details of proposals submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme of Swayamsidha during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the assistance extended to Andhra Pradesh under this scheme during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The aims and objectives of Swayamsidha Scheme are all round empowerment of women, especially socially and economically by ensuring their direct access to,

and control over, resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all the on-going sectoral programmes.

(b) The State Government submitted the Annual Action Plan for the last three-years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, listing the activities to be undertaken under the Swayamsidha scheme.

(c) the funds released to Government of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
*	143.57	110.00

* No funds were released in 2003-04 as Annual Action Plan was not in order and fund utilization certificate was not submitted by the State Government.

Dowry prohibition law

2873. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether dowry prohibition law is in force;
- the number of cases framed against violation;
- whether it is a fact that the number of dowry deaths is on the rise;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken by Government to prevent dowry deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, 3204 cases were registered in the country in the year 2005 in respect of violations of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) As per the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of Dowry Deaths reported in the country in the last three years was 6208 (2003), 7026 (2004) and 6787 (2005).